

To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 5:16:14 PM
Subject: Resending this info to you FW: need for a media desk statement on upper animas mines and next steps

Resending info – Laura Williams worked on WSJ question; R9 used our website to develop the historical fact sheet which got approved – I took those 2 paragraphs from it below.

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From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 4:53 PM
To: Mylott, Richard
Subject: RE: need for a media desk statement on upper animas mines and next steps

This is apparently a fact and was used in response to WSJ:

The Red and Bonita has been fully assessed and does not have mine workings that are hydraulically connected to the American Tunnel or Gold King Mine.

This was in Laura Williams' statement she provided but sheds some light: To the best of my knowledge, Sunnyside is associated with the American Tunnel, and is definitely not part of the evaluation that was being conducted at the Gold King Mine (unless the assessment finds some type of connection between the Gold King and the American Tunnel).

This is approved language from the fact sheet that is going on the web today:

By the end of mining operations, many of the mines were left discharging contaminated water into streams. In 1991, the last big mine in the region, the Sunnyside, stopped mining. Its owner, Sunnyside Gold Corp., agreed not only to bulkhead (mine plug) its mine, but also to clean up abandoned mines nearby, while continuing to run the metal-laden waters of upper Cement Creek through a water treatment facility.

Sunnyside also reached an agreement with the state and Gold King mining to turn over its water treatment operations to Gold King. At that time, the GKM, like the nearby Red and Bonita mine, had not discharged any water. However, after Sunnyside closed, water found natural fractures that allowed it to flow into the GKM and Red and Bonita mines. Initially, these waters were run through the treatment plant that Sunnyside built, but Gold King ran into technical, financial and legal troubles and the treatment plant stopped operating.

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From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 4:08 PM

To: Wharton, Steve; Stavnes, Sandra; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin; Way, Steven
Cc: Peterson, Cynthia; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Smith, Paula; Miullo, Nat
Subject: need for a media desk statement on upper animas mines and next steps

All- I wanted to flag this a need for messaging next week. We are seeing a growing need for general messages on, 1—next steps for addressing Upper Animas mining concerns, and, 2. what we know and don't know about water and the connections among the mines in the area --Gold King, Sunnyside, Red and Bonita, etc.

I think all we need is a couple paragraphs that speak in general terms about the status and limits of our knowledge, and what we will look to do next, in terms of both assessing/securing the mine(s) and next steps w/ our partners. Ideally, these would be shared and reinforced by others, i.e., state.

These are Qs coming with increasing frequency from several news outlets and others.

I understand there are several factors at play here. I also know there have been several draft and final responses provided to the JIC on some of these Qs worked by Steve and Sandy and others in the region. We can use these as a starting point and discuss Monday.

Rich